

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Members Present: Kim Allen; Judge Donald Armstrong, Jr.; Sheriff John Aubrey; Kevin Sidebottom (Designee for Tom Campbell); Patricia Combs; Walker Cunningham; Leo Smith (Designee for Dan Goyette); Tom Dyke (Designee for Dave Huber); Steve Jenkins; Richard Lewis; Marjean Martin; Laura Volk (Designee for Karl Stankovic); Lt. James Mueller (Designee for Chief White); Clarence Williams; and Louis Willis.

Excused Members: Judge Kathleen Voor Montano, Chair; Sheri Cunningham; Rev. Charles Duncan; Judge Stephen George; Roger Henderson; Joni Jenkins; Judge James Shake; Dave Stengel and Tim Vize.

Guests Present: Glenda Bradshaw and Ann Schiavone Dyke (Jefferson County Attorney's Office); Maurice Risner (Jefferson County Public Schools); Julie Hayes (District Court Administrator); and Peggy Kidwell (Criminologist).

Staff Present: David Nicholson; Stephanie Stidham; Faith Hartlage, Barbara West; and Harrison Hyden (intern).

I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Judge Montano, Chair, Steve Jenkins called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and called for introductions.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2005 MEETING

The meeting summary of the September 15, 2005 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Jenkins stated that October is a busy month for awareness campaigns - Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Child Health Month, Let's Talk Month (Youth Advocates), Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Crime Prevention Month. Crime prevention can improve the quality of life by reducing fear and crime and by increasing citizens' involvement and sense of ownership in their communities. Law enforcement plays a vital role but not an exclusive one. All members of the community need to be involved for an improved quality of life to be achieved. Mr. Jenkins referenced a flyer in the agenda packet announcing a children's art exhibit at Unity Church sponsored by the Children Who Witness Domestic Violence Subcommittee of Metro's Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (DVPCC). A press conference to open the exhibit will be held on Monday, October 24 at 11:00 a.m. Commission members were encouraged to attend. Mr. Jenkins acknowledged that in the area of domestic violence issues, our community had been recognized nationally for its strides in system-wide coordination, legislation and community interest.

IV. PRESENTATION

The Honorable Jerry Bowles, Family Court Judge, Division Six – stated that the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was recently reauthorized for the third time. Diane Stewart is the National Director of the VAWA Office, an appointment made by the President. VAWA addresses family, children and sexual violence issues. VAWA funding established the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence approximately six years ago. The Institute includes a four-day training program for judges, conducted 3-4 times per year with approximately 60 judges attending a session. Judge Bowles reported that our local level programs have served as models both nationally and internationally. Our local DVPCC is comprised of the Council and three subcommittees. The Fatality Review Subcommittee was formed in 1995 and was one of the first in the nation to be established to review cases where a fatality resulted from domestic violence. The subcommittee recently received statutory protection against wrongful lawsuits. As a result, the first Fatality Review Report will be released at the DVPCC meeting on October 26. The subcommittee found a correlation between fatalities and the service of civil orders. Victims are more at risk during this time period. Recognizing the need for victim notification when the orders have been served, the Mary Byron Foundation was awarded a grant for \$1M to develop a pilot site for notification. The Foundation is working with Apriss to develop a notification system similar to the Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE). Louisville, Lexington, Utah, Texas and North Carolina will serve as the pilot sites for this project. Another recent project of the DVPCC has been the System Snapshot Project which reviewed system progress made since the last study was done in 1998. Some 24 interviews were scheduled with system partners/service providers to identify strengths and challenges. The System Snapshot Report will be presented at the October 26th meeting. The second subcommittee of the DVPCC is the Children Who Witness Domestic Violence. This subcommittee was formed a few years ago to address the issue of children who are exposed to domestic violence and the impact this violence has on their lives. Judge Bowles again mentioned the art exhibit at Unity Church. The third subcommittee is the Interagency Subcommittee which was the first committee of the DVPCC. Partnering agencies meet to discuss system progress/gaps. Judge Bowles mentioned that the DVPCC is exploring the establishment of a Legislative Subcommittee. He also emphasized that domestic violence is a community-wide issue affecting individuals from all sectors and of the community and all walks of life.

V. STAFF UPDATES

A. Stephanie Stidham reported on the following:

- Crime and Justice Show has three tapings scheduled for the month of November.
- The Warrant Process Committee is meeting twice/year to monitor the issue and develop strategies as necessary.
- Citizens Commission on Police Accountability has been focusing on refresher training for members the last two meetings. The next case for review should begin in November.
- Homeland Security 04 and 05 grant projects are going very well. Staff are currently working with state and federal partners on reallocation issues, closing out of 04 projects and beginning new projects for the 05 grant.
- Elder Abuse Committee will hold an Elder Abuse Awareness Candlelight Vigil on November 10 at 5:00 p.m. at Metro Hall. The Butler High School choir will participate. Additional copies of the notice are available for distribution.
- Computerization Committee is scheduled to meet on November 8 at 10:00 a.m. At that time, there will be another status report on the Electronic Citation Project.
- Grant funding, in general, is becoming more scarce and much more competitive. This is a trend that will likely continue. Pages 5-8 of the National Criminal Justice Association

(NCJA) Bulletin in the agenda packets lists the justice assistance appropriations in the 109th Congress.

B. Faith Hartlage reported on the following:

- Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) Project - a team of nine board members recently went to Santa Cruz, California to visit the model site of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Santa Cruz has developed an objective risk assessment instrument and partnerships with community-based organizations to use as alternatives to detention, and partners with local agencies for funding opportunities.
- Bench Warrant Subcommittee has developed strategies to reduce the number of youth detained for a bench warrant (failure to appear). These strategies include enhancement of court notification procedures, working with the Jefferson County Public Schools to access contact information, and giving the youth picked up on a bench warrant the opportunity for judicial review.
- Field Release Subcommittee implemented a pilot project in the Louisville Metro Police Department, Division Two, on July 18. We recently received a grant extension to fund the pilot through June 30, 2006. YMCA Safe Place Services has been contracted to hold non-detainable youth whose parents/guardians cannot be located or are unwilling to accept the youth to reduce the unnecessary use of detention. The next step will be to engage School Resource Officers and provide them with alternatives to detention.
- Justice Reinvestment Project, as previously reported, was funded through a \$50,000 planning grant from the SOROS Foundation to develop a strategy to enhance re-entry of released prisoners coming back into the local community. The Advisory Board for this project conducted extensive research of national best practices, formed partnerships for data collection, conducted case studies, inventoried community services, and developed a preliminary program design for a pilot project in the Newburg Community. The final report for this project will be submitted to the Open Society Institute of the SOROS Foundation on October 31.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David Nicholson referenced and discussed the handouts in the agenda packets entitled "Retail Gangs: A New Breed of Thieves" and "Ankle Bracelet Keeps Tabs on Person's Drinking." The Commission is currently reviewing legislation for the upcoming General Assembly Session. There were some 27 pre-filed bills regarding sex offenders but those will be collapsed into one bill. Anyone having any legislative issues for review should contact Commission staff. There will be a Holiday Open House this year at the Commission office. It will be held on Monday, December 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Invitations will be forthcoming. David announced that the DVPCC meeting date has been changed from October 28 to October 26. The meeting will be held in the Crown Room from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

VII. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.